

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A biocompatible seal device comprising:
a solid sheet, the sheet having a protruding portion configured to fit in an opening in a disk annulus.
2. The device of Claim 1 wherein the protruding portion is substantially circular.
3. The device of Claim 1 wherein the sheet is substantially pliable.
4. The device of Claim 1 wherein the sheet includes a radiopaque material.
5. The device of Claim 1 wherein the sheet is prepared in a color that contrasts with the colors of the viscera and skeletal tissue.
6. A method of surgery using a bone morphogenic inducing protein which minimizes unintended post-surgical bone growth, the method comprising:
resecting a posterior lateral herniation in a spinal disk annulus;
forming an opening in the annulus in a posterior lateral location;
introducing bone morphogenic protein (BMP) into the opening;
sealing the opening with a biocompatible seal wherein the seal is positioned to cover the opening so as to inhibit leakage of the BMP into surrounding tissue.
7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the seal is substantially pliable.
8. The method of Claim 6 wherein sealing the opening includes positioning a protruding portion of the seal into the opening.
9. The method of Claim 6 further comprising affixing the seal in place.
10. The method of Claim 6 wherein is positioned so that at least a portion of the seal is received into the opening.
11. The method of Claim 6 wherein the seal includes a radiopaque material.
12. The method of Claim 6 wherein the seal is prepared in a color that contrasts with the colors of the viscera and skeletal tissue.
13. A biocompatible seal device comprising:
a sheet, the sheet having a first surface portion contoured to cover an opening formed in a spinal disk annulus and a second surface portion contoured to align with the exterior surface of the spinal disk

wherein the sheet is composed of a material which inhibits the postoperative migration of surgically introduced bone morphogenic protein into surrounding tissue.

14. The device of Claim 13 wherein the sheet is substantially pliable.

15. The device of Claim 13 wherein at least a portion of the sheet is received into the opening.

16. The device of Claim 13 wherein the sheet includes a radiopaque material.

17. The device of Claim 13 wherein the sheet is prepared in a color that contrasts with the colors of the viscera and skeletal tissue.